

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 22 and 30 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-11, 14, 15, 17, 22 and 30 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1, 8, 22 and 30 are the independent claims. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 4, 7, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended claims 4, 7, 11 and 14 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4, 7, 11 and 14 be withdrawn since these claims fully comply with the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 15, 17, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0085470).

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1, it is noted that claim 1 recites an optical information storage medium, comprising: a user data area for recording user data; and a lead-in area, comprising: a reproduction-only area; and a recordable area to store updated disk state data when a recording of a predetermined data is completed, wherein the updated disk state data includes at least one of an address of a predetermined area of an optimum power control (OPC) area and an address of a predetermined area of a drive data area.

The Office Action relies on paragraph 251 of Yokoi '470 for a teaching of the updated disk state data including at least one of an address of a predetermined area of an optimum power control area and an address of a predetermined area of a drive data area.

However, Applicants note, paragraph 251 of Yokoi '470 simply discloses that the optical disc includes a recording management area (RMA) in which recording management data (RMD) obtained by the trial writing is recorded, and that the RMD includes disk ID, drive ID, a recording

strategy setting, record date/time, address of trial writing, optimum heating power, etc. That is, Yokoi '470 simply discloses disk ID and drive ID.

Accordingly, although the management area (RMA) includes different types of data, none of these types of data includes an address of an OPC and an address of a predetermined area of a drive data area, as recited in independent claim 1.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 30, it is noted that claim 30 recites some substantially similar features as claim 1. Therefore, claim 30 is traversed for substantially the same reasons as claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 1 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn because Yokoi fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 30.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 8, it is noted that claim 8 recites a method of recording data on an optical information storage medium comprising a user data area and a lead-in area having a reproduction-only area and a recordable area, the method comprising: recording user data in the user data area; and recording updated disk state data in the recordable area included in the recordable area other than the user data area, if a recording of user data is completed, wherein the updated disk state data includes at least one of an address of a predetermined area of an optimum power control (OPC) area, an address of a predetermined area of a drive data area, and data representing whether an additional recording is possible after the recording of user data is completed.

As noted above, Yokoi fails to teach or suggest that the disk state data includes at least one of an address of a predetermined area of an optimum power control (OPC) area, and an address of a predetermined area of a drive data area. Yokoi simply discloses disk ID, drive ID, a recording strategy setting, record date/time, address of trial writing, and an optimum heating power. Therefore, Yokoi, at most, simply teaches an address of a trial writing. However, the trial writing address is not related at all with an address of a predetermined area of an optimum power control (OPC) area, and an address of a predetermined area of a drive data area, as recited in the independent claim.

Furthermore, Yokoi does not teach or suggest any type of data representing whether an additional recording is possible after the recording of user data is completed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn because Yokoi fails to teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 8.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of dependent claims 2, 9, 10, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn at least because of their dependency from claims 1 and 8 and the reasons set forth above, and because the dependent claims include additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 9, 10, 15 and 17 also distinguish over the prior art.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 4, 7, 11, 14, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokoi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0085470) in view of Ito et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0120240).

Regarding the rejection of claim 22, it is noted that claim 22 recites a method of accessing an area on an optical storage medium where new user data is to be recorded, comprising: recording, in a recordable area of a lead-in area of the optical storage medium, updated disk state data, when a recording of user data is completed, wherein the updated disk state data includes at least one of an address of an area containing newly recorded optimum power control (OPC) data, an address of an area containing most recently recorded drive data, an address of an area containing most recently recorded user data, and data representing whether additional recording is possible after the recording of user data is completed, wherein, when new user data is to be recorded, an area on the optical storage medium where the new user data is to be recorded is accessed, using recorded data about the disk state.

As noted above, Yokoi '470 does not teach or suggest disk state including at least one of an address of an area containing newly recorded optimum power control (OPC) data, an address of an area containing most recently recorded drive data, an address of an area containing most recently recorded user data, and data representing whether additional recording is possible after the recording of user data is completed.

Ito on the other hand simply discloses a recording method for recording, on a write once type information recording medium, management information representing a recording state of

the write once type information recording medium. The information recording medium includes a management information area. The management information area includes a plurality of continuous blocks, each of which is usable for recording the management information. The recording method includes the steps of (a) performing a recording operation for recording the management information in a predetermined one of the plurality of blocks; (b) determining whether the recording operation in step (a) is normally terminated or not; and (c) when the recording operation in step (a) is not normally terminated, performing a recording operation for recording the same management information in each of at least two continuous blocks among the plurality of blocks (paragraph [0041]).

In other words, Ito discloses a write once disc having an area in which management information, regarding whether a recording operation is successful or not, is recorded. This information however does not indicate whether additional recording is possible after the recording of user data is completed, the information simply states whether the recording was successful or not. Therefore, Ito fails to cure the deficiencies of Yokoi.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because neither Yokoi nor Ito, whether taken singly or combined, teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 22.

Regarding the rejection of claims 4, 7, 11 and 14, it is noted that these claims depend from claims 1 and 8, and as noted above, neither Yokoi '470 nor Ito teach or suggest the novel features of the independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of dependent claims 4, 7, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn at least because of their dependency from claims 1 and 8 and the reasons set forth above, and because the dependent claims include additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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